



PAWS-N-CLAWS

Lion Alison Claerhout

November 2009

SPOTLIGHT: LION COLLIN ROSS

In an effort to learn a little more about the people we serve with, a different member of the club will be spotlighted in the newsletter each month. For those of you who didn't return the personality profile, you're not out of the water yet.

Lion Collin Ross became a member of the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club in 2003. He enjoys the opportunities to serve the community and see the good that Lions can do. His best memory of being a Lion was when he attended the Lions Leadership Institute, stating that it was very educational and inspiring.



Some of Lion Collin's talents include being a good project manager, writing and public speaking. He feels he could best serve the club as a director and occasional volunteer for community service projects. His hobbies include playing hockey on Friday nights, spending time with his kids and reading.

In the future, Lion Collin would like to see our club cut back meetings to once a month, and focus more on service where we can make a real difference. One of his ideas was to pick a theme of service for the year that ties in with one of the core goals of Lionism, and get speakers that explore different aspects of that theme. He would also like to see the club modernize some of its practices to better attract and retain younger members.

PROJECT KIDSIGHT

Our second Project Kidsight event is scheduled for February 9 at Community Daycare. Volunteers for this event need to have had the Kidsight training before participating. To schedule your training, contact Lion Alison. Special thanks to Lion Suzanne for providing us with this opportunity.

REBECCA'S STORY

Ann Arbor resident, Rebecca, is going blind due to a corneal disease. She was told a year ago that she would probably need transplants and was asked to come back in 12 months for another exam. During that 12 month wait, Rebecca and her husband both lost their jobs, and their health insurance. As a result, she knew that she would not be able to pay for her June 2009 appointment at Kellogg Eye Center, and cancelled it.

Rebecca called Lion Lisa in August, in tears, stating that her vision has drastically diminished and she was overcome with a sense of hopelessness. Lion Lisa called and made an appointment for her with Dr. Sugar, medical director of the Michigan Eye-Bank and corneal specialist, and arranged for Rebecca to work directly with U of M billing to try and get into the M-Care system for the uninsured.

In order to begin the diagnosis process, Kellogg was asking that she pay \$150 for the first appointment (normal fee is \$500) and they will work to assume the remaining costs of her eye care. The Ann Arbor Host Board took an emergency vote and agree to cover the \$150 bill.

On October 2, Rebecca met with Dr. Sugar, who provided wonderful care and gave her all kinds of tips to cope with the diminishing vision until she is able to get her transplant, which will probably occur in November. In addition, all of her future medical/surgical costs associated with this condition will be covered by a charitable fund called M-Support.

Lion Lisa received a phone call from Rebecca immediately after the appointment and stated, "I could literally 'hear' her smile. It was like talking to a whole new person."

Rebecca has promised to keep us posted on her progress and parted by saying, "I can't thank the Lions Club enough for all of your help...it has meant more to me than you will ever know."

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Holiday Party will be held at Lion Howard Conlon's house at 2001 Marra Drive in Ann Arbor, on December 15 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be catered and everyone is invited to bring a spouse or significant other.



FEASTS FOR FAMILIES REMINDER

This year we will be making five Thanksgiving baskets for distribution to needy families through the Ann Arbor Community Center. Please bring all donated items to the **November 3** meeting, or Lion Lisa would be happy to stop by your home and pick them up.



MEETING LOCATION

Just a reminder, the November Ann Arbor Host Lions Club meetings will be held at the Ann Arbor City Club at 1830 Washtenaw Ave. A separate room will be available for us and the meeting will start promptly at NOON.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday to our November babies, Cam Innes, Jennifer Rydman and Saeed Shir-Shekar!



MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECTS

NOVEMBER- Feasts for Families, Holiday Bookwrap, Fruit and Nut Drive

JANUARY- Eyeglass Collection

FEBRUARY- KidSight, Winter Camp for Blind

MARCH- Penrickton Read to Children

APRIL- Eyeglass Collection, Buddy Day

JUNE- Golf Outing, Green Fair, Ann Arbor Summer Festival?

2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOKWRAP

Join the Ann Arbor Council of Lions on November 14 for a Holiday Book-Wrap and Membership Drive Party. Bring a few rolls of holiday gift wrap, **bring a friend** and head down to the Peace Neighborhood Center at 1111 Maple Rd from 1:30-4:00 p.m. The event will consist of wrapping books for seniors and children to be distributed this holiday season, along with a short presentation about the Lions and all of their accomplishments.



Our goal is to introduce the Lions Club to individuals that are unfamiliar with us, in hopes that they may someday want to join in our efforts to serve the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Service Project: Holiday Book-Wrap

November 3: Lunch meeting at the Ann Arbor City Club on Washtenaw Ave with a special visit from DG Terry Walters.

November 4: Zone Meeting

November 7: Mini Cabinet Meeting, Vandercook Lake.

November 13: Peace Posters due for judging.

November 13-15: Michigan Lions Leadership Institute in Higgins Lake.

November 14: Holiday Book-Wrap at the Peace Neighborhood Center on Maple Rd, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

November 17: Lunch meeting at the Ann Arbor City Club on Washtenaw Ave with guest speaker Amy Rolfes Family Learning Institute.

December 4-6: Council of Governors in Lansing.

December 7: Honorary Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 15: Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Holiday Party/Potluck.